



MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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MINUTES
of the
GOVERNING BOARD
of the
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

June 6, 2007

I. Call to Order.

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was called to order by Chairperson Michael Berger, at 2:00 p.m. on June 6, 2007 at the Conejo Recreation and Park District, 403 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

II. Roll Call.

The roll was called and the following members were present: Ed Hayduk, Jerome C. Daniel, George Lange, Vice Chairperson, and Michael Berger, Chairperson. Quorum present.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer; Rorie Skei, Deputy Executive Officer; Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning; Laurie Collins, Chief Staff Counsel; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Dan Tholund, Chief of Facilities and Maintenance; Jeff Jones, Chief Financial Officer, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

III. Public testimony on all agenda items and public comment on matters not on the agenda.

The following members of the public addressed the Authority:

Bill Keifer, member of the public, on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Keifer.

IV. Reports.

The Authority received verbal reports from the Chief Ranger, Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, the Chief of Interpretation, the Director of Facilities and Maintenance, and the Assistant Financial Officer.

V. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution adopting the MRCA Warrant Disbursements for the months of April and May 2007.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of the following offer to dedicate a trail easement: Stevens/5-85-652, Upper Trancas Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution ordering the making of amended assessments under Part 10 of Division 10 of the California Streets and Highways Code for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (d) Consideration of resolution ordering the making of amended assessments under Part 10 of Division 10 of the California Streets and Highways Code for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles.**
- (e) Consideration of resolution preliminarily approving amended assessment, ordering hearing protests and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (f) Consideration of resolution preliminarily approving amended assessment, ordering hearing protests and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles.**

- (g) Consideration of resolution initiating proceedings for and of intention to levy annual maintenance assessments for fiscal year 2007-2008 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (h) Consideration of resolution initiating proceedings for and of intention to levy annual maintenance assessments for fiscal year 2007-2008 and directing related actions for the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Los Angeles.**
- (i) Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 40 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the development and improvement of land and water resources at Towsley Canyon, Santa Clarita.**
- (j) Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 40 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the development and improvement of land and water resources at Mentryville, Santa Clarita.**
- (k) Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 50 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the protection of land and water resources, specifically the removal of non-native trees and vegetation, at Temescal Gateway Park, Los Angeles, and Ramirez Canyon Park, Malibu.**
- (l) Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract to the Anahuak Youth Association for collaboration and community outreach on a pilot MRCA interpretive program along the Los Angeles River for the communities of Northeast Los Angeles.**
- (m) Consideration of resolution authorizing the transfer of APN 3210-019-005 to the City of Santa Clarita and retaining a conservation easement over the property, and acceptance of acquisition reimbursement, Soledad Cyn, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (n) Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the use of Prop A 5th District Excess Funds to acquire APN 2582-002-010 in Chapter 8 Agreement 2531, unincorporated Sylmar.**

- (o) **Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 funds to acquire APN 5565-027-007 in Chapter 8 Agreement 2531 and adding said parcel to the final Engineer's Report, Laurel Canyon, Los Angeles.**
- (p) **Consideration of a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire tax defaulted parcels in the upper Santa Clara River watershed and the San Gabriel Mountains, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (q) **Consideration of a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire property within the Soledad Canyon (Angeles Linkage) Conceptual Area Protection Plan, upper Santa Clara River watershed, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**
- (r) **Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant augmentation to SMM-0607 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services.**
- (s) **Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of a grant augmentation to SMM-0464 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for Project Planning and Design services.**

At the request of Mr. Daniel, Items V(a) and V(l) were removed from the Consent Calender.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution Nos. 07-52, 07-53, 07-54, 07-55, 07-56, 07-57, 07-58, 07-59, 07-60, 07-61, 07-63, 07-64, 07-65, 07-66, 07-67, 07-68, and 07-69 were unanimously adopted.

V(a). Consideration of resolution adopting the MRCA Warrant Disbursements for the months of April and May 2007.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Assistant Financial Officer.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by the Assistant Financial Officer.

On motion of Mr. Lange, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-51 was unanimously adopted.

V(I). Consideration of resolution accepting a grant of Proposition 40 funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the development and improvement of land and water resources at Towsley Canyon, Santa Clarita.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Chief of Interpretation.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hayduk.

Comments were made by the Chief of Interpretation and the Deputy Executive Officer.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-62 was unanimously adopted.

VI. Consideration of resolution amending the MRCA appraisal policy for acquisitions in regard to appraisal review for properties valued at less than \$250,000.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-70 was unanimously adopted.

VII. Consideration of resolution adopting the 2007-2008 Workprogram.

The staff report for this item was presented by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-71 was unanimously adopted.

VIII. Consideration of resolution entering into an agreement with and accepting a Community Development Block Grant from the City of Los Angeles for Vista Hermosa Park, Los Angeles.

Comments were made Mr. Lange

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-72 was unanimously adopted.

IX. Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of in lieu mitigation funds to acquire APN 649-0-320-120 in the Black Canyon watershed, Simi Hills, unincorporated Ventura County.

This item was postponed to a later date.

- X. Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of in lieu mitigation funds and the acceptance of private funds to acquire an option on APN 4434-009-015, Garapito Canyon, unincorporated Topanga Canyon area.**

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-74 was unanimously adopted.

- XI. Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Wildlife Conservation Board for a grant to acquire properties within the Angeles Linkage (Soledad Canyon) Conceptual Area Projection, upper Santa Clara River, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-75 was unanimously adopted.

- XII. Consideration of resolution authorizing the acceptance of a grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to acquire APNs 2821-009-020 and 029 and the use of in lieu mitigation funds to acquire said parcels, Devil Canyon, unincorporated Chatsworth area. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston, Shirley Ramgren, and Jack Novey. Under consideration: terms and price. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 54956.8 and Section 54956.9 of the Government Code.)***

Comments were made by the Deputy Executive Officer, Chief Staff Counsel, and the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Hayduk.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-76 was unanimously adopted.

- XIII. Consideration of resolution authorizing the use of Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation District No. 1 funds to acquire APN 4355-009-016 and acceptance of maintenance endowment, Higgins Canyon. Negotiators: Joseph T. Edmiston and Garrett Kreditor. Under consideration: terms and price. *(This item may be heard in closed session pursuant to Section 54956.8 and Section 54956.9 of the Government Code.)***

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Daniel.

Comments were made by the Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning.

On motion of Mr. Hayduk, duly seconded, Resolution No. 07-77 was unanimously adopted.

XIV. Statements, questions, and directions to staff pursuant to Section 54954.2 of the Government Code.

No comments were made.

XIII. Closed Session.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Government Code §§ 54956.8 and 54956.9. Confidential memoranda related to these items may be considered during such closed session discussions. Conference with legal counsel. Number of cases: 5. (1) *Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*; (2) *Robings v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; (3) *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority v. City of Malibu, and related litigation*; (4) *City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*; and (5) *Douglas v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*.

No closed session was held.

XIV. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on July 12, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Acting Chair at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP
Executive Officer

Michael Berger
Chair